

## i8o Continues Crusade Against Obscurantism.

by reason of their fault, would say that printing ought to be suppressed ; printing, which is of itself nothing less than pernicious, and is more essential than anything else for celebrating the glory and reputation of men ?

"This most abominable and wicked plot of the sophists and toppers of the Sorbonne was brought to nought by the wisdom and prudence of Guillaume Bude, the light of his age, and Jean du Bellay, bishop of Paris, a man equally distinguished by his rank and his worth.<sup>55</sup>

Such outspoken denunciation of the bigots in authority was exceedingly daring. And they were dangerously imprudent, especially as Francis I. forfeited more and more, in the latter half of his reign, the title of promoter for that of proscriber of literature, as M. Crapelet has well said. Dolet, who settled at Lyons in 1535 and combined the business of printer with his literary activity, was henceforth a marked man. The inquisitors of Toulouse and the bigots of the Sorbonne and the Parliament of Paris were only waiting for an opportunity to destroy him, and their victim was not the man to abstain from further provocation. He continued to inveigh against " the barbarians/<sup>7</sup> as he dubbed the antagonists of the new culture, and he aggravated the offences of his pen by printing the heretical books of others, including an unauthorised and unexpurgated edition of the " Gargantua" and the " Pantagruel" of Rabelais, the New Testament in French, and a work of the martyred Louis Berquin. Accordingly, in 1542, at the instigation of Mathieu Orry, the inquisitor-general of Toulouse, he was arrested, tried on a charge of writing and printing books containing heretical matter, found guilty in spite of his disclaimers of heterodoxy, and delivered over to the secular arm to die the death of a heretic. From this sentence he appealed to the Parliament of Paris, and was only saved from the Parliament's hostility by the intervention of Francis himself, who evoked the case to the Privy Council, and ultimately pardoned and absolved him from further persecution (June 1543). His enemies were not to be balked, however, and six months later (January 1544) he was again arrested and imprisoned at Lyons on a false charge of sending a consignment of heretical books to Paris. By a clever ruse he succeeded in escaping to Piedmont, returned clandestinely